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REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia, GDR, Rumania

DATE OF  
INFORMATION 1953

SUBJECT Military - Construction

DATE DIST. 22 Jan 1954

HOW  
PUBLISHED Daily newspapers, weekly bulletin

NO. OF PAGES 2

WHERE  
PUBLISHED Lisbon, Paris, Brussels, SalonicaDATE  
PUBLISHED 14 Aug-31 Oct 1953SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

LANGUAGE Portuguese, French, Greek

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AIRFIELDS AND FORTIFICATIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE  
CONSTRUCTED IN THE SATELLITES

CZECHOSLOVAKIA FORTIFIES ITS AUSTRIAN BORDER -- Lisbon, Diario da Manha,  
 31 Oct 53

Berne, 30 October (AFP) -- Bund, a Berne daily newspaper, reports that  
 Czechoslovakia is building new blockhouses and pillboxes all along its Aus-  
 trian border. Two barbed-wire entanglements 4 meters wide and 200 meters  
 apart, the paper said, form a belt along the border from Gloeckelberg to  
 Trautwald. Fortifications are being built in the forests southeast of Roth-  
 muellem and along the Bavarian border.

SOVIETS BUILD NEW AIRFIELDS IN THE GDR -- Paris, Danube-Press, 4-11 Oct 53

A new airfield with three runways has been built by the Soviets at Gross  
 Doelln, 30 kilometers north of Berlin. Another airfield is now under con-  
 struction at Vogelsang.

SOVIETS EVACUATE FOUR AIR BASES IN THE GDR -- Brussels, La Libre Belgique,  
 14 Aug 53

According to information from reliable sources in Berlin, the Soviet Air  
 Force has withdrawn from four air bases in the GDR. All installations, in-  
 cluding gasoline storage tanks, were removed from the large air base at Wer-  
 neuhen, 15 kilometers east of Berlin. Not a single man or plane remains at  
 Neu Petershain, the large jet fighter base where only a few days ago 30 MIGs  
 were stationed. Finsterwalde and Brand, two airfields in the southern part  
 of Brandenburg, have also been completely evacuated.

This information has been confirmed by the Allies. Since the outbreak  
 of the Korean war, the USSR has kept about 600 jet fighter aircraft and sev-  
 eral hundred propeller-driven aircraft in the GDR. Of the score of airfields  
 maintained in operating condition, 12 were equipped for the use of jet air-  
 craft.

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According to allied military circles, the evacuated air bases were not turned over to the GDR air force (which now consists of 10,000 men) because it lacks the necessary trained personnel. No valid explanation for the Soviet withdrawal has been advanced. It must be noted that the Soviets still have a large number of aircraft and airfields in the GDR.

FORTIFICATIONS CONSTRUCTED ALONG RUMANIAN BLACK SEA COAST -- Salonica, Nea Alithia, 23 Sep 53

Istanbul, 23 September (Special Service) -- According to reliable information from Bucharest, the Soviets have established large bases along the Black Sea coast, from the Bulgarian border to the Danube delta. Furthermore, the port of Constanta has been fortified. Military fortifications have been built in depth all along the Black Sea coast. A submarine base, the largest of its kind on the western side of the Black Sea, has been built near Constanta [exact location not given]. Two submarine flotillas from this base are maintaining a constant surveillance of the straits [Bosporus]. The small salt lake of Techirghiol has been changed to a large seaplane base.

The Rumanian population residing along the coast has gradually been transferred to the interior of the country. The only persons allowed in this area are members of the Soviet Armed Forces.

At present, the Soviet Union has assigned to the Rumanians 86 airfields, of which nine have underground landing fields [sic]. The air force in Rumania is entirely Soviet-controlled. It has at its disposal, an extensive radar network.

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